

MEMORANDUM FOR General Bradley
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: Policy on Repatriation of Chinese and North Korean Prisoners of War

1. I appreciate your memorandum of 8 August 1951 on the above subject. I am in accord with the policy recommendations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Security Council consideration. It would appear particularly advisable to pursue a course of action which substantively supports the privilege of asylum and guarantees its effectiveness. A favorable psychological impact should result which would further United States efforts and aims toward encouraging defection from Communist areas.
2. May I suggest that the following procedural advice be furnished the UN Commander as a technique and tactic to adopt in order to lend psychological advantage to the anticipated reaction:
 - a. The initial exchange of POW's, as provided in the armistice negotiations, include some Communist elements (non-defector or convalescent prisoners) expressly opposed to repatriation.
 - b. Accede to the objections of neutral observers and world opinion, and subsequently suspend forcible repatriation.
 - c. Withhold the announcement of a policy pertaining to remaining prisoners until the UN interview board has completed individual prisoner interviews.
 - d. The UN Commander adopt and announce the policy proposed by the JCS.

TOP SECRET

TS #66213, Draft 2
Copy 6 of 7 Copies

~~TOP SECRET~~

3. The problem of ultimate disposition of the Communist POW's who do not wish repatriation is rightfully a matter for United Nations deliberation which would also provide the sounding board for our own propaganda on a continuing basis with better prospects of reaching audiences normally hostile to U.S. propaganda.

4. It seems relevant to point out that, with respect to repatriation of Chinese POW's, alternate screening and control measures are desirable in order that:

a. Effort is minimized of shrewd Communist prisoners to infiltrate the Nationalist military forces with subversive intent; and

b. The Nationalist Government will agree to utilize these repatriates gainfully and further agree not to permit acts of vengeance against them.

5. A query to General Ridgway might also be in order to determine whether this policy and its proposed implementation modify in any way his previous disapproval of the CIA plan for the utilization of POW's.

~~TOP SECRET~~